

the U.S. It is in America's national interest to ensure that we do all we can to assist all countries in addressing HIV/AIDS, not only because of the potential for a tremendous loss of life, but for economic, political and security reasons.

Globally, about 2.6 million people worldwide will die of AIDS this year, the most of any years since the epidemic began, according to a report by the United Nations AIDS program. About 16.3 million people have already died of AIDS since 1981. In addition, about 5.6 million new infections with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) will occur this year, raising the number of people currently living with the disease to about 33.6 million, with more than 23 million of those individuals being in sub-Saharan Africa. More than 1.3 million individuals living with HIV and AIDS are in Latin America and some 360,000 are in the Caribbean. It is estimated that some 920,000 individuals living with HIV and AIDS are in North America.

Some 300,000 Americans are infected with HIV and do not know it since they have never been tested for HIV infection. Sadly, my own city of San Antonio has experienced over 3,704 cases of people with AIDS; 53% of these people have died. This means that over 1,950 people in San Antonio have died from this disease. Of the reported cases of AIDS in San Antonio, 48% are in the Hispanic community, 39% are White and 11% are Black. The majority of San Antonio's population is of Hispanic origin and maintains close ties with Mexico and other countries in Central and South America. Many return to visit, to work and live, and then return to the United States. Many of my constituents are very interested in reuniting with their families, bring family members to the U.S. to visit or become U.S. citizens.

AIDS has affected Hispanics in San Antonio more than in most other communities around the country. One thing we can all do is to continue to educate our friends and relatives about AIDS, not only as to its causes but also on its impact on our local, national and global community. We can also push for increased funding for research and treatment of this deadly disease.

Our efforts targeting African Americans here in the United States, and our efforts to address AIDS in Africa and elsewhere are to be commended and expanded. We must do more for those most in need, and we must do more to prevent HIV from becoming a problem in those areas where it has not yet established itself. To do any less is to allow a disease that we can prevent. And we must begin now to look at how we address AIDS in Latin America so that we can prevent it from becoming the next epicenter of the epidemic. Public health practices have shown that it is much more effective to prevent an illness than to treat an illness. Clearly, what we do now in our efforts to address HIV will affect the quality of our lives tomorrow.

We must fight the complacency that is threatening our efforts to address HIV and AIDS in the U.S. and worldwide. Yes, new drug combination therapies have prolonged the lives of many Americans who have access to them, who can afford them, and who can tolerate them. Unfortunately, not all have access or can afford them. Imagine how difficult it will be for those in countries outside the U.S. whose average health care expenditures are less than a few hundred dollars a year to pay

for drugs which can cost up to \$14,000 a year in the United States.

Unfortunately, many of our leaders are still afraid to discuss HIV/AIDS in public. This silence is also evident in many Latin American countries where AIDS is just starting to take hold. This silence only leads to continued denial that AIDS is affecting Latinos, and it will only lead to additional infections and deaths. By not publicly discussing HIV/AIDS, we send a message to our community that AIDS is not an issue of concern to us or that it is taboo. The number of cases, new infections, and deaths in our community have shown that our silence has been deadly.

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus, of which I am a member, is proud of its role in securing additional funding and in providing leadership in this area. But we have a long way to go. We need the Hispanic community, especially our Hispanic leaders both here in the U.S. and in other countries, to expand their efforts. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus believes that health issues that disproportionately affect Latinos must be addressed openly and publicly. The Caucus understands the importance of public leadership in addressing HIV/AIDS as a means to educate the public of the impact that HIV/AIDS is having on the Latino community both here and internationally.

I offer these comments to honor those from the Hispanic and other communities who have lost their lives to this dreaded disease and to remind the House, the country and the world that AIDS is indeed threatening the lives of a wide variety of people.

HONORING TAESOO "TOM" KIM

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I proudly recognize a wonderful citizen and community member from my Congressional District in California. Taesoo "Tom" Kim will be recognized this weekend by the Sister City Association of Garden Grove.

This is a local grassroots, citizen-directed effort to promote international understanding and build bridges between communities. The association carries on a relationship with Garden Grove's sister city, Anyang, South Korea. In a city that is home to so many Korean Americans, the association is to be commended for its work.

Tom Kim has dedicated many, many years in service to our community.

He is currently a member of the Advisory Council for Democratic Unification of Korea. His leadership and volunteerism have included terms as President of the Korean Chamber of Commerce of Orange County and many years as the chair of the Korean Festival of Orange County. Mr. Kim can also be thanked for his work to found the first Korean Festival of Orange County.

He has served as the President of the Sister City Association, and his dedication to international understanding and the relation between our sister cities has always been clear. He proudly served as the liaison between Garden Grove and Anyang, Korea in order to form the sister city relationship we are so proud of today.

His service on the board of the Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce and the city Parks and Recreation Commission tell us what we already know, that Tom is a true leader and a friend to Garden Grove.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Tom for all he's given, and I am proud to honor him in Congress today.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT MORVILLO

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Mr. Robert Morvillo, a distinguished lawyer from the city of New York. Tonight, Mr. Morvillo will receive the prestigious Norman S. Ostrow Award, from the New York Council of Defense Lawyers. The Norman S. Ostrow Award is a symbol of the New York Council of Defense Lawyers' aspirations, namely the defense of liberty and the preservation of individual rights. Past recipients include such notable attorneys as Arthur Liman and Charles Stillman. I am pleased that Mr. Morvillo will soon join these distinguished ranks.

A former president of the New York Council of Defense Lawyers, Mr. Morvillo graduated from Colgate University in 1960, and received his Juris Doctor from Columbia Law School in 1963. In 1964 he was admitted to the Bar in New York State and has appeared in federal courts across the country, as well as the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Morvillo has had an extensive and impressive career beginning in 1963 when he worked as a Law Clerk to William B. Herlands, U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York. From 1964–1968 Mr. Morvillo was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. He then went on to become an associate at Reavis & McGrath, currently known as Fullbright & Jaworski. In 1970 Mr. Morvillo served for 1 year as the Chief Trial Assistant for the U.S. Attorney in Charge of Frauds Unit, and then served 2 years as Chief, Criminal Division, U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of New York. From 1973 up to the present, Mr. Morvillo has been a Principal of Morvillo, Abramowitz, Grand, Iason & Silberberg.

In addition to these achievements, Mr. Morvillo lectured at Columbia Law School from 1973 to 1985, and since 1982 he has been the columnist of "White Collar Crime" for the New York Journal. He is a member of both the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and the New York State and American Bar Association. From 1992 to 1996 Mr. Morvillo sat on the Board of Trustees for the Columbia Law School Association and he sat on the Board of Trustees for the Federal Bar Council from 1989 to present. He has been a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers since 1990, and is currently the Chairman of the American College of Trial Lawyers, New York Downstate Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Robert G. Morvillo for his many years of dedication and hard work defending liberty and preserving individual rights.